



Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Date: Monday, February 23, 2015
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Place: McCourt Social Hall, Memorial Town Hall, Spencer, MA
Present: Vice Chair Fritze, Clerk G. Woodbury, Members Stevens & C. Woodbury and Administrator Gaudette. Chairman Pepe was absent.

At 6:05 p.m. Vice Chair Fritze called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Action Item: Vote to authorize Chairman Pepe to participate remotely in accordance with Regulation 940, CMR 29.10 of the Open Meeting Law

Selectmen Pepe was no longer available to participate remotely.

Minutes

A motion to approve the Business Meeting and Executive Session minutes of January 12, 2015 (G. Woodbury/C. Woodbury) passed 4/0.

Citizen Input

None

Communications

Mr. Fritze announced that Nominations for the Meritorious Service Award may be submitted to the Board of Selectmen's Office by March 23rd. Nomination forms may be obtained at the Office of the Town Clerk, the Town Administrator, and on the Town Website

New Business

Action Item: Vote to approve Toll Booth Request for DPHS Booster Club

Bryon Deane, President of the DPHS Booster Club requested permission to hold a fund raising Toll Booth on Saturday, May 2 at the intersection of Rt. 31 North & Rt. 9, and in front of the Transfer Station, with a rain date of Saturday, May 9th. Proceeds benefit DPHS student athletes.

Mr. Deane will arrange to sign a waiver for the Transfer Station location. He is in contact with the Chief of Police and has obtained the required liability insurance.

A motion to approve the Toll Booth as discussed (G. Woodbury/C. Woodbury) passed 4/0.

Action Item: Vote to Waive Right of First Refusal (Ch. 61A) Lot 3 Paxton

Mr. Gaudette explained the Chapter 61A process, noting anytime an applicant converts land to a different use while in Chapter 61A, the Board of Selectmen have the Right of First Refusal to exercise the option to purchase the land.

The Conservation Commission reviewed this property and does not recommend exercising the option.

A motion not to exercise the Right of First Refusal for Lot 3, Paxton Rd. (C. Woodbury/Stevens) passed 4/0.

Discussion: Annual Meeting with Legislative Delegation (Senator Gobi and Representatives Durant and Berthiaume)

Administrator Gaudette stated that the Board wanted to have a discussion on State Revenue, 9C Cuts, FY2016 State Budget/Aid Outlook, Transportation (Route 31 South) and Environmental (Thompson Pond and Little Stiles) Bond Bills, and Chapter 74 Nonresident Vocational Transportation Bill.

Representative Durant reported the Governor's House One budget will be released on March 8th. There is an expected revenue increase of 4.8%. Local aid will be held harmless and no additional cuts are expected at this time. He will meet with Governor Baker and will find out about the status of the Bond Bills for Spencer.

Senator Gobi provided a handout on the current fiscal outlook. She noted that regional school transportation cuts should not have been made according to current statute as it is considered part of local aid. She filed a Bill with Representative Ferguson and hopes to return at least half of that money to the Districts. She reported the State is working to change in the Chapter 70 Formula and is pleased to see progress being made.

Representative Berthiaume noted things have been off to a slow start this year due to the series of major snowstorms. He has been visiting with various communities and local aid is the number one concern.

Mr. Stevens asked about the Legislature's involvement with the current MBTA issues. Senator Gobi pointed out that they are focused on pursuing solutions simultaneously. He also asked about concerns over Mass Health expense being unsustainable. Representative Durant said committees are currently working on the issues.

Mr. G. Woodbury offered his congratulations to all on their elections and thanked them for attending and providing the information.

Old Business

Discussion: Prouty Park Advisory Committee

Prouty Park Advisory Committee Chairman Gary Herl was present. He explained that the \$185,000 grant for the revitalization and construction of a Veterans Memorial at Prouty Park secured by Senator Brewer has been cut from the Governor's budget. He estimates \$300,000 is needed for the project as designed, or they may do something on a smaller scale in the near future. He asked the Board to disband the committee at this time noting the charge has been fulfilled and recommends the project be put on hold. The board agreed and thanked Gary, the Committee, and the Exchange Club for their work on this project.

Vote to authorize additional emergency Snow & Ice expenditures in accordance with MGL c. 44, §31D

U & F Superintendent Steven Tyler reported that Snow & Ice is over budget by \$235,000 as of today, due to the unprecedented amount of snow received in January and February. He requested an increase of 350,000 at this time to cover the deficit and any new storms.

Mr. G. Woodbury said he would like to start with \$300,000 and if additional funding is needed, it can be requested at a future meeting.

Mr. Gaudette noted that Mr. Tyler and his staff have done a phenomenal job this year with clearing record breaking snow. He thanked them for their hard work. The Board agreed.

A motion to authorize additional emergency Snow & Ice in the amount of \$300,000 (G. Woodbury /Stevens) passed 4/0

Discussion Item: North Spencer Road Bridge Replacement needed

Mr. Tyler reported on issues with bridge #S-23-013 on N. Spencer Rd. He provided a report that showed pictures of a large chunk of metal that had broken off leaving a hole that needed to be repaired by the Highway Department. He drafted a letter to the Mass DOT requesting funding assistance to rehabilitate or replace the bridge and offered for the Town to fund the design using Chapter 90 money. He asked the Board for their support and to sign the letter. The Board agreed it was a good candidate for State funding and signed the letter.

Action Item: No Parking limits on Adams Street

Mr. G. Woodbury noted that after the Board went on a site visit on Adams St., the consensus was based on the width of the street, parking is hazardous and the only option is to designate it “no parking” area.

Mr. C. Woodbury said it was extremely tight for two buses to drive by, even without cars parked on the street.

A motion to authorize No Parking Limits on Adams Street to the intersection from Maple Street to the start of Clark Street (Fritze/C. Woodbury) passed 4/0.

Action Item: Revisit No Parking limits on Clark Street

A motion to authorize No Parking Limits on Clark Street, to the intersection of Adams Street to Ash Street (C. Woodbury/Stevens) passed 4/0.

Town Administrator Report

Initial FY2016 Budget Preparation

The Administrator presented his initial FY16 budget. He will meet with the Finance Committee and will further advance the budget after receiving school assessments and local aid numbers in March. He noted at this time there is only a request for a 1.5% increase in the \$8.5 million budget. He is very proud of his staff for their efforts and resourcefulness in working with this budget. It includes the reinstatement of one position at the Library. Mr. C. Woodbury asked if it could be a part-time position.

Mr. Stevens said he doesn't want to see Luther Hill Park closed again. Mr. Gaudette noted the cost is between \$20,000 to \$25,000 to open and staff with lifeguards for 6 weeks.

Additional discussion will take place once final numbers come in.

Action Item: Vote to Open the Annual Town Meeting Warrant

A motion to Open the May Annual Town Meeting Warrant (G. Woodbury/C. Woodbury) passed 4/0.

The meeting will be held on May 7th at 7 p.m.

Board Liaison Reports

Mr. Stevens mentioned that he is no longer available to attend Chamber of Commerce meetings on a regular basis.

Mr. Fritze reported that issues with a broken pipe occurred at the Maple St. School building. Mr. Gaudette pointed out that an article could be placed on the May 7th ATM Warrant asking voters for authorization to sell that building.

Citizen input

Mary Braney, Chairman of the Finance Committee suggested that each Department Head report on the consequence resulting from the loss of services in FY15.

Board Member and Staff Comments

Mr. Gaudette announced that the Town Clerk has nomination papers available for Town and School District positions.

Mr. G. Woodbury said an agreement was worked out between businesses and abutters to avoid parking on Church St. during weddings and funerals. The Town will not be involved.

Mr. Stevens offered his congratulations to the DPHS Show Choir for winning the championship at the Central Mass Show.

Request for Executive Session under Mass General Laws, Chapter 30A, §21(a), ¶6, for the purposes of considering the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real estate, as the chair has decided that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body

The Board agreed to postpone the executive session until Mr. Pepe could be in attendance.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 pm. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Savoie
Administrative Assistant

Referenced Materials

Right of First Refusal – Chapter 61A, Lot 3 Paxton Rd.
Memo to Mass DOT on Bridge #S-23-013
FY16 Initial Budget